

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
May 27, 2004**

Past Meeting Follow-up and Open Issues Discussion

Several updates were presented on issues discussed at previous SWAC meetings, including:

- **Solid Waste Compliance Fee Increase** – The proposed per ton solid waste compliance fee increase will not be part of DEP's FY05 fee regulation package. However, the administration's goal of program self sufficiency continues to remain the same, and DEP has been given one year to develop a compliance fee increase proposal for its solid waste program to take effect by FY06. DEP will begin discussions on how to increase solid waste fees with the SWAC at the September 2004 meeting. The one year reprieve will give DEP time to develop a fee proposal that seeks to address concerns that have been raised while still meeting DEP's funding need.
- **Review of the Master Plan** – Last November, DEP began to revisit the Master Plan's goals and waste reduction strategies. The review process has been placed on hold until Fall 2004 when there will be additional information available to allow for more informed discussions, including the FY05 budget, complete 2002 solid waste data, and preliminary 2003 data. This discussion could then also tie into DEP's FY05 program planning.
- **Draft Facility Impact Assessment (FIA) Guidance Document** – Based on a suggestion at the March SWAC meeting, DEP provided the revised FIA guidance document to members of DEP's Science Advisory Panel for their review and comment.
- **Public Hearings on 310 CMR 19.000 Regulation Amendments** – Jamie Doucett distributed a copy of the formal notice for public hearings that will be held for proposed amendments to 310 CMR 19.000. Four public hearings have been scheduled during the week of June 28th to July 2nd. Copies of the notice, background document, draft regulations, and other associated draft guidance documents can be obtained from DEP's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/bwp/dswm/dswmpubs.htm#regs>. For additional information or questions on the public hearing process, please contact James Doucett at James.Doucett@state.ma.us.
- **Planning for Medical Waste Management Needs** – A participant suggested that DEP form a group to address medical waste management issues and needs. In particular, it was suggested that Massachusetts should better prepare for managing spikes in medical waste in the event of natural or other disaster situations. A participant suggested inviting an official from EPA's Homeland Security group to speak at a future SWAC meeting.

Organics Diversion: Where do we stand on our Master Plan strategies and what should be our next steps?

Peter Allison gave a presentation on the status of organics recycling in Massachusetts, and the role of DEP and other partners in advancing organics waste reduction in the coming years.

Some next steps DEP plans to undertake to expand organics diversion include:

- Institutionalizing the supermarket composting project;
- Leveraging opportunity for infrastructure development in the restaurant and hospitality industry with the assistance of the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Conventions (CERC) (e.g., greening the Democratic National Convention);

- Sign a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Agricultural Resources to increase farm-based composting;
- Support opportunities for municipal residential organics collection programs; and
- Establish an Organics Policy Working Group to assist in evaluating when and how to proceed with a disposal ban on commercial and institutional food waste, as proposed in the Master Plan.

Participants raised several comments and suggestions, including:

- If DEP promotes farm-based composting, we also need to ensure that we adequately oversee those sites so that they do not turn into dumping grounds that pose nuisance, health, and odor issues.
- Institutions should partner with food service managers to establish joint incentives for reducing food waste by sharing savings from diversion.
- Several participants commented that a food waste ban could not be effectively addressed at the site of disposal and would be better focused on business and institutional generators. It was suggested that DEP pursue a similar approach for other waste ban materials.

For more information or if you have any questions concerning organics recycling please contact Sumner Martinson or Peter Allison at Sumner.Martinson@state.ma.us or Peter.Allison@state.ma.us.

Proposed Reporting and Resource Document for Diesel Emissions Retrofits

Fred Civian discussed a draft form for tracking diesel emission controls implemented at solid waste facilities, including landfills, combustion facilities, and transfer stations and handling facilities. This form is intended to serve three purposes:

1. To document compliance with facility commitments to install equipment retrofits and other controls.
2. To estimate pollutant reductions achieved through these controls.
3. To establish a retrofit database that could serve as a resource for other facilities interested in retrofitting equipment.

The draft form is proposed to be an additional section of the existing solid waste Annual Facility Report. DEP is proposing to begin requesting this information on the 2004 Annual Facility Report forms, which would be sent out in December 2004. Participants made several comments and suggestions on the proposed form:

- The annual report is a good mechanism for gathering this information, rather than requesting it through a separate form.
- Participants commented that the layout of the form looks good and makes sense.
- DEP may want to pre-populate information on the form in future years to show retrofit information that the facility has previously reported to avoid the need to report the same information more than once.

DEP is interested in further comments on the form design, information requested and time basis on which the information is collected (e.g., annual, when a retrofit occurs, etc.). If you have any comments or questions regarding the draft form and requested information, please contact Fred Civian at Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us.

Draft 2002 Solid Waste and Recycling Data

Amy Roth presented summary solid waste data for 2002, with the exception of the potential generation and source reduction numbers needed to calculate the overall waste reduction rate, which are not currently available pending the availability of statewide gross state product data. This information is summarized in the handout posted with these meeting notes. This data was reviewed by the SWAC Data Subcommittee prior to being presented to SWAC. This data will be prepared for final publication, along with an FY04 program update, as soon as statewide economic data is available to calculate the overall waste reduction rate. DEP hopes to have this data shortly.

Comments and suggestions regarding this data included:

- The fact that the C&D diversion rate is so high (87%) raises the question of why we need to implement a disposal ban. DEP suggested several responses to this question, including:
 - The fact that the ban has been proposed has driven infrastructure investments over the past several years that have helped to drive this high rate.
 - With the exception of asphalt, brick, and concrete, the recycling and diversion rates for other materials such as asphalt shingles, gypsum wallboard, carpet, and ceiling tiles are much lower and present considerable opportunities for improvement and new market development. These items could be added to the C&D ban in the future.
 - If the Commonwealth can exceed the 88% milestone for non-MSW waste reduction, that will make it easier to achieve the overall 70% waste reduction goal by reducing the amount of MSW waste reduction that we need to achieve that goal.
 - Many of the markets that have driven recent increases in C&D diversion, such as residuals for grading and shaping, and fines for landfill cover, and wood for fuel, are relatively low value markets which can be improved upon. In addition, landfill dependent markets such as fines and grading and shaping materials will decline as landfill capacity in Massachusetts decreases. Furthermore, the use of C&D residuals in grading and shaping projects has caused some problems that may limit the demand for those materials in future landfill closure projects.
- DEP is no longer showing additional capacity needed to reach no net import by 2006 in its capacity projections. Given this change, a participant asked whether the no net import/export goal is still Department policy?
 - The no net import/export policy has not changed. However, DEP will be examining this issue in the context of discussions reviewing the Solid Waste Master Plan beginning this Fall.
- The 2002 data, which shows a decrease in commercial recycling, seems to further bolster the point that we need to focus more on increasing commercial recycling.

Please contact Amy Roth at Amy.Roth@state.ma.us with questions or comments on the draft 2002 solid waste data.

Meeting Handouts and Presentations

- Draft Summary 2002 Solid Waste Data
- Draft Proposed Annual Facility Report Form Addition for Diesel Emissions Controls
- Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments To The Solid Waste Management Facility Regulations

- Fact Sheet: Food Waste Composting
- Organics Recycling: Links in the Chain – PowerPoint presentation

Next SWAC Meeting

The next SWAC Meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2004, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at DEP, One Winter Street, Boston.